

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Montana's Unemployment Rate continues down to 4.2 percent**

HELENA – Montana's unemployment rate continued its decline in December, down 0.1 percentage points to 4.2 percent. The unemployment rate has decreased by over a full percentage point during 2014. The U.S. unemployment rate declined to 5.6 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate remains over a point above Montana's rate, but has also decreased by over a full percentage point over the year.

"Montana finished 2014 with more employment growth, which will likely put the year into the history books as one of the strongest years for our economy," Governor Steve Bullock said, "With our state's strong economy, I remain committed to building on that strength to ensure that all Montanans feel the benefits of this growing prosperity."

"Montana's economy is continuing its momentum and promising a good year in 2015" said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "Although we continue to monitor economic performance for any negative impacts from falling oil prices, employment growth in all other industries continues unabated. We will continue to work with businesses to recruit and develop good workers in this low unemployment environment."

Montana's total employment levels increased by 829 jobs over the last month, with 12,663 jobs added since last December. These preliminary numbers indicate strong job growth of 2.6 percent in 2014, placing the year in the top quartile for employment growth since 1980. Total employment estimates include payroll employment, plus agricultural and self-employed workers. Payroll employment estimates indicate a gain of 3,100 jobs over the month, with large gains in the construction industry.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) fell sharply by 0.4 percent in December due to a drop in oil and fuel prices. The gasoline index declined 9.4 percent over the month. The index for all items less food and energy, also called core inflation, was unchanged over the month.

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*\*\* Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 1-800-541-3904.*

**The next Labor Situation Report for the month of January 2015 will be released on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Per usual, the unemployment rate release for January is issued later than other months due to the annual benchmarking process to improve estimate accuracy, completed during February. Updated, more accurate, estimates for 2014 will also be issued in March.**

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***



Visit our website at [www.lmi.mt.gov](http://www.lmi.mt.gov) for additional information and analysis, including industry employment levels, background on the unemployment rate, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. **This month's Economy at a Glance article features information on people moving to Montana.**

**\*\*\*\*\* COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES \*\*\*\*\***

The unemployment rate and ranking for each of Montana's 56 counties is provided below for your convenience. County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **4.3** percent.

Rank	County	Unemployment Rate		Employment	
		Current Unemployment Rate	Change over Year	Current Employment	Job Change from Last Year
1	Fallon County	1.7	0	2,091	36
2	Richland County	1.8	-0.3	7,601	473
3	Sweet Grass County	2.2	-0.4	2,312	-56
4	McCone County	2.3	-0.5	1,015	-49
4	Wibaux County	2.3	-1.8	541	0
6	Dawson County	2.4	-0.5	4,532	96
6	Sheridan County	2.4	-1.2	2,033	18
8	Carter County	2.9	-0.1	659	16
9	Powder River County	3	-0.3	882	-152

9	Yellowstone County	3	-1	83,223	2,833
11	Valley County	3.1	-0.5	3,897	40
12	Chouteau County	3.2	-0.1	2,323	-141
12	Gallatin County	3.2	-1	53,061	3,228
12	Toole County	3.2	-0.6	2,358	74
15	Custer County	3.3	-0.3	6,284	185
16	Judith Basin County	3.4	-0.2	1,038	-92
16	Musselshell County	3.4	-1	2,357	-1
18	Carbon County	3.5	-0.8	5,237	178
18	Lewis and Clark County	3.5	-0.9	33,509	1,409
20	Beaverhead County	3.6	-0.3	4,750	-211
21	Cascade County	3.7	-1	39,850	662
21	Garfield County	3.7	-0.4	551	-60
21	Wheatland County	3.7	-1.2	894	-143
24	Stillwater County	3.8	-0.6	4,480	26
24	Teton County	3.8	-0.3	2,744	-174
26	Jefferson County	3.9	-1.4	5,579	235
26	Madison County	3.9	-1	4,343	3
28	Missoula County	4	-1.1	59,521	2,390
29	Daniels County	4.1	-0.1	734	19
29	Prairie County	4.1	-0.5	496	-47
31	Treasure County	4.3	0.9	308	-140
32	Golden Valley County	4.4	-0.1	481	-33
32	Hill County	4.4	-2.2	7,677	46
32	Meagher County	4.4	-0.5	806	-139
32	Silver Bow County	4.4	-0.9	16,768	209
36	Fergus County	4.5	-1.2	5,445	-74
36	Liberty County	4.5	0.1	661	-95
38	Pondera County	4.8	-0.6	2,294	-145
39	Blaine County	4.9	-0.2	2,525	-48
40	Phillips County	5.1	-0.3	1,865	-189
41	Park County	5.2	-1.4	7,883	89
41	Roosevelt County	5.2	-1.2	4,212	149
43	Deer Lodge County	5.3	-1.7	3,805	160
44	Broadwater County	5.4	-2.3	2,147	-38
45	Powell County	5.5	-1.4	2,622	92
45	Rosebud County	5.5	-1.4	3,527	-17
47	Ravalli County	6	-1.4	16,662	146
48	Lake County	6.1	-1.6	10,217	17
49	Flathead County	6.2	-1.4	41,469	1,748
50	Petroleum County	7.5	0	210	-12
51	Granite County	7.8	-1.3	1,152	-68
52	Big Horn County	8.5	-4.9	4,644	52
53	Mineral County	9.8	-0.6	1,731	61
54	Glacier County	10.5	-0.7	4,946	-39
55	Sanders County	10.8	-2.8	3,477	-6
56	Lincoln County	11.5	-4	6,411	233

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